

HAVE A **SMASH!** CHRISTMAS

# SMASH!

No. 152

20th DEC. 1968  
EVERY MONDAY

7d

INCORPORATING **FANTASY**

AUSTRALIA 10c EAST AFRICA 10c WEST AFRICA 10c  
SOUTH AFRICA 10c RHODESIA 10c NEW ZEALAND 10c

## SWOTS AND BLOTS

CHRISTMAS MORNING...

BY JIMBO! I HAVE  
BEEN LUCKY THIS  
YEAR! LOOK AT ALL  
THESE LOVELY  
CHRISTMAS  
PRESENTS!

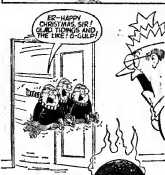
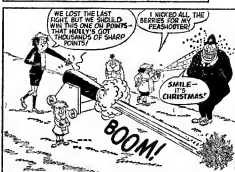
THIS IS FROM THE SWOTS.  
BLESS THEIR LITTLE SOULS!  
A SMOKING JACKET LIKE  
THIS MUST HAVE COST  
A PACKET!

THESE PRESENTS  
WASHERS WITH WHIP  
LASHES AND A  
WAGON FOR THE SWOTS  
TO RIDE IN.



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# KING OF THE RING

YOUNG WRESTLER KEN KING AND HIS MANAGER PAL, BLARNEY STONE, HAVE DECIDED TO FIGHT THEIR WAY AROUND THE WORLD. IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE KEN IS ASKED TO FIGHT A MASKED WRESTLER ON CHRISTMAS DAY.... AT A CASTLE WHICH MAKES THE PALS WONDER IF THEY AREN'T REALLY IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS....

KEN AND BLARNEY SIT DOWN TO THE STORGIEST AND MOST LAVISH CHRISTMAS DINNER THEY HAVE EVER HAD...

I HAVE TO KEEP PINCHING MYSELF TO MAKE SURE I'M NOT DREAMING! THIS WHOLE PLACE IS MORE SCOTTISH THAN SCOTLAND!

MY STOMACH TELLS ME IT'S NO DREAM, BLARNEY.

AT LAST THE WHITE-HAIRED LORD OF DUNCODGE RISES...

...SO THERE IS TO BE A WRESTLING BOUT THIS EVENING, AS A MAN WHO WAS A KEEN AMATEUR IN HIS YOUTH, I VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO IT. NOW I MUST REST A WHILE!

I'LL TAKE YOU TO YOUR ROOM, SIR! THEN I MUST LEAVE TO FETCH THE OTHER WRESTLER FROM MARSEILLES. WE KNOW HIM ONLY AS... THE MAN IN THE HOOD!

WHEN THE LORD OF DUNCODGE'S BRAWNY HERDMAN RETURNS...

HAMISH, I STILL DON'T GET IT! IT MUST HAVE COST A FORTUNE RECONSTRUCTING THIS SLICE OF THE HIGHLANDS OVER HERE! WHAT MADE THE LORD DECIDE TO LEAVE SCOTLAND...

ACH! IF ALL GOES WELL THIS EVENING... I PROMISE YOU'LL HEAR THE TELLING OF IT! IF ALL GOES WELL!

AND SO THAT EVENING, KEN FACES THE MAN IN THE HOOD...

ROUND ONE! TWO FALLS... TWO SUBMISSIONS... OR A KNOCKOUT DECIDES THE WINNER!

WONDER WHO HE IS? FUNNY I'VE NEVER COME ACROSS HIS NAME BEFORE!

KEN'S HOODED OPPONENT MOVES LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING...

STONE THE CROWNS! THIS FELLER'S NOT KIDDING! HE'S HERE TO WIN!

UUUUHHH!

THEN AS KEN SPRAWLS HELPLESS...

HE'S CLAMPED ON AN ANKLE! HE'S GOING ALL OUT FOR A QUICK SUBMISSION...

AAAAHHH! HE'S STRUNG AS WELL AS FAST!

BUT...

NICE GOING, KID! THAT'S BROKEN HIS HOLD!

GGGGNNNN!

WITH CATLIKE SPEED THE MASKED WRESTLER ROLLS AND LEAPS...

HEEE-  
YAAAAAA!

NICE TRY! BUT THROWING  
A FOREARM SMASH OFF  
BALANCE CAN GET YOU INTO  
TROUBLE...



UUUUURGGG!

WOWES!  
OLD HOOD-HEAD'S  
AIRBORNE!

...SEE  
WHAT I MEAN?



ROUND TWO: NEITHER MATHEMAN HAS SCORED,  
THEN...

LET'S TRY  
THIS FOR  
SIZE!



THAT'S SHOWING  
HIM, KID! HE ISN'T  
THE ONLY ONE WHO  
CAN MOVE FAST!

AAAAA  
AHUUHH  
HH!

SUBMIT,  
CHUM! DON'T  
TAKE ANY MORE  
PUNISHMENT  
THAN YOU HAVE  
TO!



BUT, DESPITE THE PAINFUL SUBMISSION HOLD,  
THE HOODED MAN REFUSES TO QUIT...

WHAT'D YOU LET HIM  
GO FOR, KID? ANOTHER  
FEW SECONDS AND  
YOU'D HAVE BEEN A  
POINT UP!



I DON'T THINK SO,  
BLARNEY! I HAVE THE  
FEELING HE'D PASS OUT  
BEFORE HOLLERING 'SUBMIT'!

ROUND THREE...

THEY BOTH HAVE  
COURAGE AS WELL AS  
SKILL, MR. STONE! BUT  
I THINK YOUR FRIEND HAS  
TAKEN SOME OF THE  
SPEED OUT OF THE  
MAN IN THE HOOD!



YEAH, LAIRD! HOOD-  
HEAD'S TAKEN A LOT OF  
PUNISHMENT... BUT HE  
KEEPS BOUNCING BACK  
FOR MORE!



THE KID'S  
MOVING IN FOR  
THE KILL NOW,  
LAIRD! YOU  
WATCH!

I THINK  
YOU ARE  
RIGHT!

AS THE HOODED WRESTLER'S  
KNEES BUCKLE...



HE'S REALLY GROGGY  
NOW! THE KID'S  
GOING FOR A  
SHOULDER LIFT  
AND THROW!

THEN A CRY ECHOES ABOVE A SOUND OF RIPPING  
CLOTH...



GGGAAA!

HIS HOOD'S  
TORN OFF!

IT  
CANNOT  
BE...

STUBBORNLY, THE UNMASKED MATHEMAN TRIES TO  
STAGGER HIS FEET... BUT...



...EIGHT  
...NINE...  
...OOOOO TTT!

KEN'S RIGHT! BUT,  
STRENGTH, THAT  
OTHER FELLER'S  
GOT GUTS  
WHenever HE IS!

HE... HE IS  
MY SON...  
JAMIE!



JOY HAS SOFTENED THE PIERCE FEATURES OF HAMISH MACDOUFF...



HE WAS TURNED OUT OF CASTLE DUNDEE... BUT HIS FATHER, EVEN THOUGH HE WOULD'VE HEARD HIS SON'S NAME MENTIONED, GREW ALL WITH PAINS, AND THAT'S WHY, FOR THE LAIRD'S HEALTH, WE MOVED HERE TO FRANCE...



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**SUBBUTEO**  
 (LEFT) 60 LANGTON GREEN,  
 TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT.

**XMAS POW WOI!**

Have you got anything to say? Chat it over with Alf and Cos. **YOU could win £1!**

Dear Alf and Cos,  
 If bullets can't harm the Spectre, why was he running away from the fire in issue No. 146? If bullets can't harm him, surely fire won't have any effect on him, either.  
 Colin Catterall,  
 Crawley, Sussex.

If you look back at the Spectre episodes, Colin, you'll see that the reason why he's immune to bullets is because of his armoured vest which, of course, wouldn't protect his hands or legs from flames. So he's just as vulnerable to fire as anyone else.  
 Alf and Cos.

Dear Alf and Cos,  
 In Smash No. 145, the Apemaster said his body was unsoild, but a picture showed him holding a type of gun. How could this be if his body was unsoild?  
 Paul Welford,  
 Bournemouth.

The Apemaster didn't have his gun drawn when he was actually turning his body unsoild, so we guess that anything that he's actually wearing is turned unsoild with his body (remember how his clothes turned like that as well?). But he was back to normal when he had drawn the gun, so he would have been able to fire it... fortunately somebody stopped him, though!  
 Alf and Cos.

Dear Alf and Cos,  
 I would very much like to know why it is that in SMASH No. 145, in the Superman and Batman story, there are rabbits shown in one picture? After all, this was supposed to be in the frozen Arctic, and I would have thought that it would have been far too cold for rabbits to live there.  
 David Northeast,  
 Horsham, Sussex.

Would you believe they were Arctic hares?  
 Alf and Cos.

Dear Alf and Cos,  
 If Don Blake's cane were to break in half, would he still be able to change into Thor? And if he did, would he possess two hammers instead of one? This has puzzled me for a long time, so please try to answer it.  
 Michael Lawlor,  
 Birmingham, 19.

Well, as Don Blake's cane is only Thor's hammer in another guise, Michael, we rather think that it wouldn't ever break in half, no matter what happened!  
 Alf and Cos.

# BRIAN'S BRAIN



IN THE RING...



THE AUDIENCE CHEER BRIAN UP THE ROPE LADDER...



BRIAN REACHES THE CROW'S NEST!



NEXT MOMENT...



DOWN BELOW...



HIGH ABOVE THEM...



EVEN THE OTHER CIRCUS STARS PAUSE TO WATCH BRIAN...



ABOVE THE DAZZLE LIGHTS...



HE CLIMBS THROUGH THE SLIT IN THE CIRCUS TOP, AND—

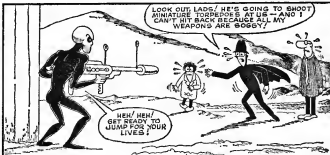


# THE CLOAK AND THE RETURN OF DEATHSHEAD

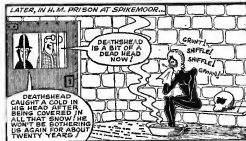
CLOAK AND THE DREADED G.N.O.I.L. EXECUTIONER, DEATHSHEAD, HAVE FALLEN INTO AN UNDERGROUND RIVER!



NOW I'VE GOT A DROP OF AIR IN MY LUNGS. I'LL SHOW YOU A THING OR TWO, MY BONEHEADED BUDDY!







# Fantastic Four

"A  
BLIND MAN  
SHALL  
LEAD THEM!"

# FOUR



Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group 1965

BUT, GUIDED BY HIS INFALLIBLE RADAR SENSE, DAREDEVIL GUIDES THE VALIANT QUARTET OUT OF THE BE-SIEGED WAREHOUSE! THEN, GAZING SKYWARD, THEY SUDDENLY DISCOVER...

I SENSE A SOURCE OF ALMOST UNLIMITED POWER ABOVE US! AN EVIL, UNCONTROLLABLE FORCE!

LOOK! UP THERE-- ATOP THE BAXTER BUILDING--

WHAT CAN IT BE?

IF IT'S WHAT I THINK IT IS, OUR TROUBLES ARE JUST BEGINNING!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, BIG BEN!

THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE LOST THEIR SUPER-POWERS AFTER BEING CAUGHT IN THE EXPLOSION OF A Q-BOMB! AS REED RICHARDS IS TRYING TO FIND SOME WAY OF DUPLICATING THEIR POWERS BY MECHANICAL MEANS, THEY ARE ATTACKED BY A MYSTERIOUS FOE. FORTUNATELY, DAREDEVIL HAPPENS TO BE ON HAND, AND RUSHES TO THEIR RESCUE...



THERE ISN'T TIME TO HUNT FOR A LIGHT SOURCE! FOLLOW ON MY NOSE-- I'LL LEAD YOU OUT! COME ON!



IT'S AN AIRCRAFT, MORE ADVANCED THAN ANY IN USE ON EARTH TODAY! IT'S EITHER A SHIP FROM OUTER SPACE, OR...

...OR SOMETHING EQUALLY DANGEROUS! A PRODUCT OF THE ONLY OTHER HUMAN BRAIN CAPABLE OF CREATING SUCH A CRAFT! THE BRAIN OF--





--DOCTOR DOOM!!

HAH! THEY'VE FINALLY REALIZED WHO THEIR ATTACKER IS! GOOD! NOW, I'LL MAKE SURE THAT THE WORLD REALIZES IT!



THERE! IN ORDER FOR MY TRIUMPH TO BE COMPLETE, IT MUST BE ANONYMOUS WHO IS BRINGING THE R.P.!



I WAS RIGHT! IT IS DOOM! BUT NOW CAN WE FIGHT HIM-- NOW, OF ALL TIMES-- WHEN WE'RE ALMOST TOTALLY DEPENDENT--

GLAD TO HAVE YA, HIL! BUT IT'D TAKE A DOZEN LIKE YOU TO HANDLE DR. DOOM!

HE'S IN OUR OWN HEADQUARTERS! NOW CAN WE GET TO HIM?



THE FANTASTIC-CAR--OPERATING BY REMOTE CONTROL!



NEED! DON'T SACRIFICE YOURSELF! GET OUT OF THE WAY! NEED!



DON'T WORRY, MRS. STORM! I'LL GET HIM OUT OF THE WAY!



THANKS, FELLA! THAT WAS QUICK THINKING! BUT, WE'VE GOT A REAL BATTLE ON OUR HANDS NOW! THE FOUR OF US HAVE LOST OUR POWERS-- WHILE DOOM IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER BECAUSE HE'S TAKEN OVER OUR OWN ARSENAL!

THE FANTASTIC FOUR-- WITH NO SUPER POWERS! THEN, IT'S UP TO ME TO LEAD THEM IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY OF ALL!



AND, WITHOUT WARNING, DR. DOOM STRIKES AGAIN--

LOOK OUT! HE'S DISENGAGING THE F-CAR!

HE'S WORKIN' EACH PART SEPARATELY! WE CAN'T MOVE FAST ENOUGH!

YOU CAN'T, BUT RAREDEVIL CAN!

ONLY RAREDEVIL COULD HAVE REACHED FAST ALL MY ELECTRONIC DEFENSES SO EASILY TO TAKE OVER OUR ARSENAL OF MACHINES AND WEAPONS!

DON'T WORRY, MISS STORM! I WANT TO LET THAT CAR HIT YOU!

YOU SEEM TO KNOW FROM WHAT DIRECTION IT'S COMING--EVEN BEFORE ANYONE CAN SEE IT! IT'S ALMOST UN-CANNY!

SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT I HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OVER THEM! BEING UNABLE TO SEE, MY RADAR SENSE CAN DETECT APPROACHING OBJECTS WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT!

OH NO! TWO CARS ARE CONVERGING ON BEN! HE NEEDS HELP! HE'LL BE KILLED!



THAT'S WHAT I TELL THEM DOWN AT THE OFFICE! NOW, QUICK! --BACK INTO THE WAREHOUSE! WE HAVE TO TAKE COVER!



JAN! SO LONG AS THEY REMAIN HIDDEN WITHIN THAT BUILDING, I CANNOT SEE THEM!



WITHIN SECONDS, THE CONDEMNED WAREHOUSE, IN WHICH THE F.F. AND DAREDEVIL HAD SOUGHT SHELTER, BECAME A MASS OF WHIRLING BRICK AND RUBBLE...



ALMOST FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR DROPS HIS STARTLED BURDEN, SPINNING AROUND AND LEAPING TOWARDS THE THUNDERING BEN GORHAM AS UNERRINGLY AS A PROJECTILE--!



QUICKLY! DOOM IS SENDING ANOTHER SECTION OF THE F-CAR AFTER US!



HOWEVER, MY FIRST TASK IS TO BRING THEM OUT INTO THE OPEN AGAIN--



AT A TIME LIKE THIS, THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR VISION! I KNOW THE BUILDING IS BEING DESTROYED--BUT I CANNOT SENSE THE MEANS BY WHICH IT IS BEING DONE! THIS POWERFUL AIR PRESSURE--IT MEANS ONLY ONE THING! DOOM IS USING HIS VORTEX MACHINE! WE CAN'T STAY HERE--WE HAVE TO SEPARATE!



THUS, THE POWERFUL VORTEX RAY, WHICH CAN GENERATE THE FORCE OF A DOZEN MURKINERES--CREATED BY MR. FANTASTIC AS AN AID IN WEATHER CONTROL, BECOMES A DEADLY WEAPON UNDER THE EVIL GUIDANCE OF DR. DOOM!



ALTHOUGH LACKING THEIR FABULOUS SUPER POWERS, THE VALIANT FANTASTIC FOUR, REASONED BY COUNTLESS EPIC BATTLES, STILL MANOEUVRE AND ACT WITH THE SPEED AND DARING FOR WHICH THEY ARE RENOWNED--AND AS FOR DAREDEVIL...



LISTEN CLOSELY! THERE'S NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS! SEPARATE IMMEDIATELY! WE'LL EACH RETURN TO THE BAKER BUILDING FROM A DIFFERENT DIRECTION! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

DOOM MIGHT BE WATCHING US RIGHT NOW!

BUT WHAT CAN FOUR OF US DO-- WITHOUT OUR POWERS?

YOU HEAR THE FIVE OF YOU, TOUGH DAREDEVILS! DON'T DISOBEY YOU NOW! READY, RICHARDS?

READY! TAKE CARE, MY DEAREST! DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD! WE'LL WIN OUT SOMEHOW!

WHETHER WE DO OR NOT, DAREDEVIL-- REMEMBER NOW! LET US GO, REED! MOVE IT!

C'MON, SIS! HEARTS 'N' CHICKS! DON'T STOP DOOM!

THEN, BEN'S WARNING COMES NOT A SECOND TOO SOON...

SCATTER!

SIS! FOLLOW ME!

I WILL, JOHNNY!

THE VORTEX IS BACK!

THIS WAY, DAREDEVIL! I HAVE A PLAN!

TELL ME QUICKLY! EVERY SECOND COUNTS!

WE'VE GOT TO SMASH DOOM'S WEAPONS AS HE USES THEM! THE OTHERS SHOULD BE SAFE FOR NOW-- I'M SURE HE'S AFTER ME!

I SEE WHAT WE NEED IN FRONT OF A CONSTRUCTION SITE ACROSS THE STREET IF HE CAN JUST MAKE IT--

HIRE THEY ARE-- GAS CYLINDERS WHICH ARE USED TO FURNISH ACCESSORY POWER! THEY'LL DO THE TRICK!

GAS CYLINDERS-- AGAINST A READY TORNADO PORTAL? NOW--?

DON'T FORGET-- THE VORTEX IS MY CREATION! I KNOW THE ELEMENTS OF WHICH IT'S COMPOSED!

AND GAS IS THE ONLY ELEMENT THAT WILL SHATTER IT! NO MORE TIME-- THROW IT-- NOW!

EVEN WITHOUT YOUR EARLED SUPER POWERS, I WOULD NEVER WANT TO HAVE YOU FOR AN ENEMY, RICHARDS!



IT WORKED! HOLD YOUR BODY LAMP! RELAX, SO NO BONES WILL BE BROKEN! BUT I SEE YOU'RE WAY AHEAD OF ME! I'M A FOOL TO ADVISE YOU ON SUCH THINGS!

A FOOL YOU WILL, REEFER BE, MY FRIEND!

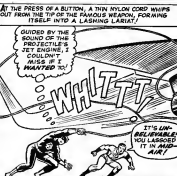
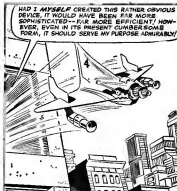
THE VORTEX IS DESTROYED! AGAIN THEY'VE ESCAPED ME! BUT I'LL FIND ANOTHER WEAPON TO USE AGAINST THEM!

HOWEVER, THE MAIN PROBLEM IS STILL UNSOLVED-- WHY DO THEY KEEP FLEEING? WHY DON'T THEY ATTACK?

IF I DID NOT KNOW BETTER, I'D THINK THEY POSSESSED NO SUPER POWERS WITH WHICH TO STRIKE BACK AT ME!

AND THAT OTHER-- WHO FIGHTS WITH THEM-- HE SEEMS TO BE THE ONE WHO HAS TAKEN THE LEAD! BUT-- THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE OR --IS IT?







**POWERLESS AGAINST THE MOST RUTHLESS VILLAIN OF ALL TIME, THE FABULOUS F.F. FIGHT THEIR MOST DANGEROUS BATTLE NEXT ISH! BE SURE TO COME EARLY FOR A RINGSIDE SEAT--IT'LL BE A SENSATION!**

# FAMOUS WAYFINDERS No 1

## SCOTT OF THE ANTARCTIC



THE 5 MEN PULL THEIR OWN SLEDGES THROUGH BLIZZARDS... SNOWDRIFTS... AND TEMPERATURES SOMETIMES 25° BELOW ZERO! 900 MILES MUST BE COVERED TO REACH THEIR WINTER QUARTERS AND SAFETY.



THEN SOLDIER OATES DIES. MARCH 17th, SEVERELY FROST-BITTEN AND UNABLE TO GO ON, HE HANGS OUT FROM THE TENT TO HIS DEATH TO GIVE THE OTHERS A BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.



MARCH 21st SCOTT AND THE REMAINING TWO ARE ONLY ONE DAY MARCH FROM ROCK AND FUEL! BUT THE WEATHER TURNS SEVERE. IT IS THE END, TRAPPED IN THEIR TENT, SAPPED OF ALL RESERVES OF ENERGY, DEATH COMES FOUR AGONISING DAYS LATER.

BUT SCOTT AND HIS BRAVE FOLLOWERS ARE HEROES. NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN AS LONG AS COURAGE IS VALUED IN MAN.

## AND HERE'S ANOTHER KIND OF WAYFINDER...



It's the Wayfinder Adventure Boot for boys. Wayfinders are the rugged new boots made for boys with a sense of adventure. You set the pace, Wayfinders can take it. And they've got two big secrets: metal tracks on the soles, so you can track animals -- even in rough country. And a secret compass in a special steel compartment.

**FREE WITH EVERY PAIR...**

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Wayfinders Adventure Boots come in black or tan. They're the only shoes approved by The Scout Association, and have a 6 months' guarantee against sole repairs. Prices from 49/11d. Full sizes only on 11-5. Get a pair now -- you'll find them at most leading shoe stores.

# WAYFINDERS

WAYFINDERS, 151 OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.1.

# DEVIL OF THE DEEP

SLUGGISH WITH THE WATER THAT HAD LEAKED THROUGH THE MAKESHIFT REPAIR, STORMBIRD BEAT ROUND A LOW, SANDY HEADLAND OF MANAKO ISLAND.

Captain Bill Barnes and his nephew Nick and Sammy Swift, were searching Manaka Deep for the monster which terrified local Islanders. Then Captain Carl Sharkey deliberately rammed their boat, Stormbird, with his tramp steamer, Suikala. In the collision, Sammy went overboard and was captured by Sharkey. Meanwhile, Bill and Nick, desperately sailing their boat to shallow water to repair damage to the hull, caught a distant glimpse of the monster on the surface.

"I'LL RUN HER ASHORE. WE'LL USE A TREE TO WALK HER OVER SO THAT WE CAN GET AT THE HOLE!"

BILL, BARNES AND NICK KNEW THAT PRECIOUS TIME IN SEARCHING FOR SAMMY WAS BEING LOST, BUT STORMBIRD HAD TO BE MADE SEAWORTHY, AND AFTER SWIFT AND SKILLFUL WORK—

"THAT REPAIR SHOULD HOLD, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE CAULKING TO SET!"

"YES, AND MEANWHILE WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THOSE DEVILS ON THE SUKALA ARE TAKING SAMMY!"

UNKNOWN TO STORMBIRD'S CREW, THE TRAMP STEAMER HAD VANISHED FURTHER ROUND THE ISLAND. UNDER GUARD ON HER DECK, SAMMY SWIFT STARED IN AMAZEMENT...

BEWARE THE BEAST THAT LURKS BELOW. THE THING THAT HAUNTS MEN'S SLEEP. TO LIVE IS BETTER THAN TO KNOW THE MONSTER OF MANAKO DEEP

"GOSH, NO WONDER WE NEVER SAW THIS SHIP BEFORE. THEY'VE GOT A SECRET ANCHORAGE!"

SAMMY FELT DESPAIR AS THE TRAMP-STEAMER THROUGHERED THROUGH THE NARROW ENTRANCE AND ITS ANCHOR ROARED DOWN IN THE SHADOWS OF THE INLET...

"BRING THAT KID UP AND PUT HIM IN THE EMPTY CABIN WHERE I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON HIM!"

BUT WHEN STORMBIRD WAS RELOADED AT THE FAR END OF THE ISLAND, NICK MADE HIS PLANS...

"I WISH I COULD COME WITH YOU, BUT I DON'T LEAVE THOSE NAKAKAS IN CHARGE OF THE BOAT!"

"I'M READY FOR A ONE-MAN PATROL, SKIPPER. I AM TO GET HIGH UP ON THAT PEAK AND SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT!"

"THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON AROUND HERE. THE FIRST TIME WE WERE ATTACKED, WE THOUGHT IT WAS JUST CAPTAINS AFTER OUR BOAT—BUT THE SECOND TIME WHO SHEER ATTEMPTED MURDER!"

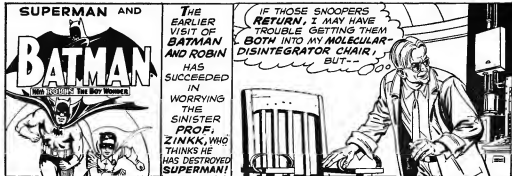
"NICK AND THE SKIPPER'LL NEVER FIND ME HERE. IF I'M TO ESCAPE, IT'LL HAVE TO BE DONE SOLO!"

"AYE, LAD, SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO DRIVE US AWAY FROM MANAKO DEEP. MAYBE YOU'LL FIND OUT WHY! GOOD LUCK!"





Next Week — "Kill the Spies — There's a Million Dollars at Stake!"





GOOD AS NEW!  
--AND JUST TO  
PROVE IT--!



WE'RE SURE NOW THAT  
PROF. ZINKK IS THE MAN  
WHO'S BEEN TRYING  
TO KILL YOU!

--AND  
VERY  
NEARLY  
DID!



THERE'S HIS  
HIDEOUT!

GOOD! I'M SURE  
YOU BOYS WON'T  
MIND IF I HANDLE  
THIS MYSELF!



WOW! YOU MEAN YOU'RE  
GOING TO SWITCH TO  
SUPERMAN RIGHT  
HERE IN THE  
BATCOPTER?

NO--I THINK I'LL DROP  
IN ON HIM FIRST AS  
CLARK KENT,  
REPORTER!



WE'LL LAND YOU SOME  
PLACE CLOSE TO  
ZINKK'S LAB,  
MR. KENT--

GOOD--

BUT WAIT A MINUTE!  
I'VE JUST SEEN  
SOMETHING  
INTERESTING!



WHAT IS IT, MR. KENT--  
ER--SUPERMAN?  
WHAT DO YOU SEE??

THAT PIT OF  
QUICKSAND  
DOWN THERE--!



MY X-RAY VISION  
SEEMS TO HAVE  
SOLVED A MYSTERY--



--THE DISAPPEARANCE  
OF FIVE OF THE CITY'S  
TOP CRIMINALS!



GOLLY! YOU THINK PROF.  
ZINKK DUMPED THOSE  
CROOKS INTO THE  
QUICKSAND?

--AND THEIR  
CAR! BUT  
HOW?



--SO THAT'S HOW PROF.  
ZINKK DROPPED HIS  
"FRIENDS" INTO THE  
QUICKSAND!

THE BRIDGE--  
IT'S BEEN  
TAMPERED  
WITH!



BUT THERE'S NO  
INDICATION THAT A  
CAR WENT OFF  
THE BRIDGE!

BATMAN!  
LOOK  
HERE!!



HE MUST BE ABLE  
TO OPERATE IT  
REMOTELY  
FROM HIS LAB!



THIS WILL TAKE CARE  
OF BATMAN AND ROBIN  
AND THEIR SNOOPY  
FRIEND!

ROBIN  
IS  
RIGHT!

FLASHING  
SOUND!

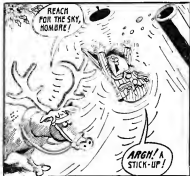
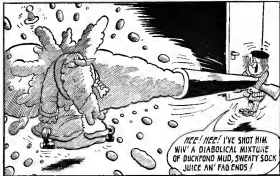
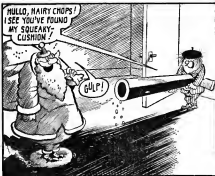


AS THE BRIDGE DROPS OPEN, THE THREE  
FRIENDS LEAP MIGHTILY--

WILL THE DEADLY SANDS  
BELOW END OUR HEROES  
AND OUR STORY QUICK?  
SEE NEXT WEEK!

# BAD PENNY





# DESTINATION DANGER

JEFF JACKSON, A YOUNG ENGLISH RACING MOTORIST, WAS GIVEN HIS CHANCE TO DRIVE FOR PUMA MOTORS IN THE U.S.A. BUT HE FOUND HE HAD AN ENEMY IN VIC STAFFORD, PUMAS' ACE DRIVER, WHOM JEFF SUSPECTED OF BEING A TRAITOR. IT LOOKED AS IF THE YOUNG DRIVER WOULD HAVE PROOF OF THIS WHEN, ON THE EVE OF THE GREAT ANZEN CIRCUIT RACE, HE FOLLOWED STAFFORD AND SAW HIM ENTER THE WORKS OF NERO AUTOS, A RIVAL FIRM.

AS THE GATES CLOSED BEHIND STAFFORD, JEFF CLIMBED THE WALL OF THE NERO WORKS ---

THERE'S STAFFORD GETTING OUT OF HIS CAR. I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW HIM WITHOUT BEING SEEN!

IT'S THE BIG RACE TO-MORROW. IF STAFFORD DRIVES TO LOSE, AS I THINK HE WILL, HE MIGHT RUIN PUMAS. I MUST EXPOSE HIM AS A TRAITOR BEFORE THEN --- BUT FIRST I'VE GOT TO PROVE IT!

JEFF DROPPED DOWN INTO THE FACTORY PREMISES ---

---AND DARTED FROM COVER TO COVER, DETERMINED NOT TO LOSE THE TREACHEROUS SPEEDSTER!

STAFFORD STRODE THROUGH THE DESERTED WORKS TO KEEP HIS MYSTERIOUS APPOINTMENT, THEN ---

I WONDER WHO HE'S GOING TO MEET UPSTAIRS?

SILENTLY, JEFF FOLLOWED STAFFORD, AND THEN DUCKED BACK AS A DOOR SUDDENLY OPENED ---

COME IN, STAFFORD --- YOU'RE LATE!

AS THE DOOR SLAMMED SHUT, JEFF HAD A RECKLESS IDEA.

A MOMENT LATER ---

HARDLY DARING TO BREATHE, JEFF INCHED TOWARDS THE WINDOW OF THE ROOM STAFFORD HAD ENTERED...

I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THAT OFFICE IN THAT BUILDING! MEBBE I CAN REACH THE WINDOW FROM OUTSIDE ---

NOW HE COULD HEAR A HARSH, ANGRY VOICE!

STAFFORD, I'M PAYING YOU GOOD MONEY TO RUIN PUMAS, SO THAT NERDS CAN STEP IN AND BUY THEM OUT! THEN WHAT THE HECK D'YOU MEAN BY LETTING THEM WIN THAT LAST RACE?



IT WASN'T MY FAULT, DEXTER! IT WAS THAT CUB DICKER JACKSON! I TRIED TO CRASH HIM--BUT HE PASSED ME AND WON.

YOU'RE A POOL, STAFFORD--AND I'M TAKING NO CHANCES WITH THE ANGELO DEITY TO-MORROW! I'VE GOT SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE SURE JACKSON WON'T WIN!



THE BOSS OF NERO AUTOS BROUGHT SOMETHING FROM A DRAWER OF HIS DESK--

PERILOUSLY, JEFF CRANE<sup>d</sup> FORWARD--

BUT, SUDDENLY, HE LOST HIS BALANCE.

THIS IS IT, STAFFORD! YOUR INSTRUCTIONS ARE INSIDE THE BOX!

LOOK OUT--IT'S JACKSON!



IN A FLASH, JEFF WAS ON HIS FEET AND FIGHTING DESPERATELY.

WELL, DON'T STAND THERE--HIT HIM!



NEXT MOMENT....

A FEW MINUTES LATER, JEFF WAS CARRIED OUTSIDE--BUT HE KNEW NOTHING OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING. HE WAS OUT TO THE WORLD!

DEXTER, WHAT DO YOU MEAN TO DO WITH HIM?

THE YOUNG POOL KNOWS TOO MUCH, SO HE'S GOING FOR A RIDE--A LONG RIDE! I'LL MAKE SURE PUMAS WON'T WIN THE BIG RACE TO-MORROW!



# The NERVS

IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY IN PATTY'S TUM... BUT THE NERVS AREN'T HAPPY...



BUT AT LAST, THE ANGLANCHE FROM PATTY'S MOUTH GUZZLES...



WHEN! WE MUST HAVE COLLAPSED! NOW WE CAN CELEBRATE OUR CHRISTMAS!



MEANWHILE, THE TUM STAFF HAVE HAD A BRILLIANT IDEA!







# THE MIGHTY THOR!

## THIS BATTLEGROUND EARTH!



TWO OF THE THREE EVIL ENCHANTERS HAVE LANDED UPON OUR MORTAL PLANET, TO DESTROY THE MIGHTY THOR... WHILST THE THIRD HAS DARED ENTER ASGARD, TO CHALLENGE THE REIGN OF ODIN HIMSELF! BUT BALDER THE BRAVE AND THE STUNNING SIF HAVE MANAGED TO REACH THOR FIRST, BRINGING HIM A WARNING!









# Percy's Pets



AAGH!  
SOMEONE'S PINCHED  
MY REINDEER—  
I WON'T BE ABLE  
TO DELIVER THE  
KIDS' TOYS  
NOW!



HEH! HEH! WE THOUGHT  
PERCY MIGHT LIKE A  
REINDEER FOR A PET!

YAHOO!  
A NEW PAL  
FOR THE  
LAOS!



OH, NO! WHAT  
HAVE THOSE TIWEP  
DONE NOW? THAT  
LOOKS LIKE SANTA'S  
REINDEER TO ME!



IT'S GOING BACK— I DON'T  
WANT AN EMPTY STOCKING  
TOMORROW, YOU CLOTS!

HUH! A  
FAT LOT OF  
THANKS  
WE GOT!



GRR! I'LL GET  
OUR NEW PAL BACK,  
LAOS— I'LL FIX  
PERCY'S

OH, NO!  
HERE COMES JUMBO  
THAT TIWEP NEVER  
COULD TAKE A  
HINT!



HEH! HEH! I'LL FLATTEN  
PERCY WITH ME  
SIX HOOTER!

AAGH!  
DIRTY GREAT  
SNOWBALLS! I'M  
DOOMED!



COO! PERCY'S DECIDED TO LEAVE ME—  
DEER! DEER!  
WAA-AAH! THOSE  
THINGS COME OUT  
OF HIS HOOTER  
AT 90 M.P.H!



YAHOO!  
INTO THE  
SADDLE!

ERK!



AAGH!  
YOU GREAT  
FAT  
TIWEP!

THUMP!



YOU GREAT LUMP—  
I'M NOT GOING TO  
LET YOU WATCH  
ANY MORE WESTERNS  
ON T.V.!



OH, NO! JUST LOOK  
WHAT YOU DID— HE'LL  
BE USELESS TO  
SANTA NOW!



I RECKON  
THERE'S ONLY  
ONE THING  
FOR IT!



WELL! IT MAKES  
A CHANGE, DOESN'T  
IT?

E-EK!  
I THOUGHT  
SANTA USED  
REINDEER!

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS,  
EVERYONE!  
HEH! HEH!

# INN OF FEAR

CHRIS! THIS IS GETTING WORSE! SHOULD WE GO ON?

YOUR  
CHRISTMAS  
SHORT  
STORY

IT WAS A WILD, BITTER-COLD CHRISTMAS EVE ACROSS THE BLEAK MOOR THE WIND-DRIVEN SNOW WHIRLED AND GUSTED LIKE A WHITE CURTAIN SO THAT THE TWO TRAVELLERS IN THEIR CAR COULD SCARCELY SEE THE ROAD AHEAD OF THEM....

WE'VE NO CHOICE, BILL. IF WE STOP THE ENGINE WILL FREEZE OVER IN AN HOUR. WE'LL NEVER GET STARTED AGAIN!

THE TWO YOUNG MEN WERE PLANNING TO SPEND CHRISTMAS AT A LITTLE MOORLAND VILLAGE...

WE'LL SOON BE THERE NOW, BILL — IN ABOUT HALF AN HOUR WE'LL COME TO A HIGH RIDGE. THE VILLAGE IS JUST THE OTHER SIDE...

BUT CHRIS — THAT RIDGE IS ALL OF FIVE MILES LONG!

SUDDENLY, THROUGH THE THICKENING SNOW...

HEY, CHRIS! LOOK!

AN INN! WHAT A STORM OF LUCK!

COME IN, GENTLEMEN — YOU LOOK BADLY IN NEED OF A LITTLE WARMTH AND SHELTER!

THAT'S JUST WHAT WE NEED! A CHANCE TO TALK OUT A LITTLE!

A CHEERFUL FIRE FILLED THE ANCIENT ROOM WITH LIFE-GIVING WARMTH...

THIS PLACE MUST BE PRETTY OLD, EH, LANDLORD? IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF YOU TOLD US IT WAS HAUNTED!

THE CHAIRS WERE OLD AND COMFORTABLE, BUT THE LANDLORD CHOSE AN AGE-SCARRED BENCH JUST BEYOND THE KIND OF LIGHT CAST BY THE FIRE...

WELL, SURE... I DO KNOW OF AN INN... JUST LIKE THIS ONE, THAT IS! SO! A STRANGE AND DARK STORY IT IS, TOO!

TELL US ABOUT IT, LANDLORD — BE A SPORT!

THEN LET YOUR MINDS PICTURE THE TIMES, LONG AGO NOW, WHEN ENGLAND WAS TORN BY CIVIL WAR!

"IT WAS ON ANOTHER CHRISTMAS EVE THAT TWO OF KING CHARLES' CAVALIERS, HUNTED MEN BOTH, TOOK REFUGE AT A LONELY INN..."

THE ROUNDHEADS WON'T GIVE UP TILL THEY FIND US... IS IT SAFE TO TAKE REFUGE HERE?

I AM TOO TIRED TO GO ON... THE LANDLORD WILL NOT BETRAY US... I GAVE HIM EVERY PENNY... WE HAD!

"BUT TWO HOURS LATER..."

ROUNDHEADS!

SLAY THE DOGS!

"THE KING'S MEN FOUGHT WITHOUT HOPE OF VICTORY..."

DOWN WITH CROMWELL!  
WE FIGHT FOR... AAAAAH!

"WHEN THE BRAVE CAVALIERS HAD FALLEN..."

HERE IS THE REWARD FOR TELLING US THE DOGS WERE HERE! YOU HAVE DONE WELL THIS NIGHT, LANDLORD!

"IT WAS THEN THAT A DYING CAVALIER SPOKE HIS LAST AND TERRIBLE WORDS..."

Y...YOU BETRAYED US... HEAR THEN... MY CURSE...

...MAY YOU WHO TOOK THE LIVES OF TWO TRAVELLERS, NEVER KNOW REST! MAY YOU AND THIS ACCURSED INN OF YOURS... HAUNT THIS EARTH...

HIS TALE FINISHED, THE INNKEEPER SILENTLY LEFT THE ROOM...

BRRR! I FEEL COLD AGAIN... LOOK, THE FIRE'S GONE OUT!

IT'S INCREDIBLE! WE'VE BEEN HERE TWO HOURS...

...I'LL LEAVE THE OLD BOY A COUPLE OF QUID FOR LETTING US SNEAK HERE... PUT A COUPLE OF HALF-CROWNS ON THEM TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T BLOW OFF IN THE DRAUGHT.

RIGHT, CHRIS...

...YES, HAUNT IT UNTIL YOU HAVE ATONED FOR THESE TWO LIVES YOU HAVE DESTROYED! THAT IS MY CURSE UPON YOU, LANDLORD!





## WIZ WAR



THE WORLD BELIEVES NEWSPAPERMAN JIM JORDAN IS DEAD, BUT IN A HIDEOUT BENEATH HIS OWN MONUMENT JIM CARRIES ON HIS FIGHT AGAINST CRIME... CALLING HIMSELF THE SPECTRE.

## AT NIGHT STALKS

# THE SPECTRE

ONE NIGHT A FAMOUS ENGINEER DESTROYS THE BRIDGE HE HIMSELF BUILT... AND AN ARCHITECT SETS FIRE TO THE SKYSCRAPER HE HAD DESIGNED. THE SPECTRE SAVES THE ARCHITECT FROM DEATH... BUT POWERFUL MENTAL FORCES ARE MAKING THE MAN TRY TO DESTROY HIMSELF. THE SPECTRE PURSUES... BUT THE OBSESSED MAN THROWS HIMSELF DOWN INTO A RAILWAY CUTTING...

WITH THE SPECTRE BEHIND HIM, THE FUGITIVE SPRAWLS ON THE ROOF OF THE RUSHING TRAIN...

I LET HIM LOOSE FROM THE HOSPITAL! HE IS MY RESPONSIBILITY. I MUST TRY TO SAVE HIM!

BUT...

NO! NO! LET ME GO! I MUST DESTROY MYSELF... IT IS THE WILL OF THE REVENGERS!

I HEAR YOU. I WILL OBEY! THE WILL OF THE REVENGERS IS MY WILL.

LEAVE ME! LET ME GO!

WE'RE GOING INTO A TUNNEL! I WILL SWEEP US BOTH OFF!

DESPERATELY THE SPECTRE CROUCHES, THEN...

THE SUCKERS ON MY SPECIAL GLOVES ARE GRIPPING THE WILL... THEY HAVE SAVED US!

THE SPECTRE DROPS LITHELY DOWN TO THE TRACK, AND...

IT'S NO USE! I WAS HOPING TO FOLLOW HIM... HOPING HE'D LEAD ME TO WHEREVER THESE REVENGERS ARE! BUT HE'S LIKE A WILD MAN! I'LL HAVE TO RETURN HIM TO THE HOSPITAL!

I MUST OBEY THE... UUUHHH!

BUT IN A SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBER BEYOND THE CITY...

HE LIVES ON! SOMETHING MUST HAVE AFFECTED THE POWER WE HAVE OVER HIM!

BUT HE CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO LIVE! THAT IS THE WILL OF THE REVENGERS!

IF HE WILL NOT DIE BY HIS OWN HAND, THEN HE MUST DIE BY OURS! I SHALL USE OUR CONTROL OF HIS MIND TO BRING HIM HERE!

THE MAN IN THE SPECTRE'S ARMS MOANS AS IF AWAKENING FROM A SLEEP...



FOR AN HOUR THE SPECTRE FOLLOWS...UNTIL AT LAST...



AS THE REVENGERS' VICTIM ENTERS THE DARK AND CRUMBLING AVENUE...



NOISELESSLY, THE CONCEALED DOOR SLIDES SHUT. THEN THE SPECTRE STEALTHILY ENTERS THE DARK, FILTHY HALLWAY...



BUT...



THE SPECTRE IS GIVEN NO CHANCE OF RECOVERY...



THE REMORSELESS BEAMS STAB INTO HIS BRAIN. THEN...



THE NEXT THING THE SPECTRE SEES...



THE REVENGER REACHES OUT TO A SWITCH...



# SAMMY SHRINK

